KF5NBO

SARA SKYWAVES

APRIL

THE NEXT SACHSE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEETING

Date and Time and Place: Thursday April 25, 2019 at 7:30pm at the Sachse Public Library Conference Room.

Presentation: AREDN Networking by Andrew Koenig (KE5GDB).

"MY CORNER OF THE SHACK"

I want to start by thanking Leroy Michalow (K5AXP) for volunteering as our Education Officer. It's great to have him on board. If you have any ideas for an education subject for our monthly meetings or our weekly net please let him know, especially if you are willing to be a presenter. I know that when I prepare to do something like that I learn a lot myself just in the preparation.

Presentations that are queued up for the monthly meetings are:

- April – AREDN Networking – Andrew Koenig (KE5GDB)
- May – Summer Field Day Planning (Summer Field Day is Jun 22-23)
- June – Scouting and Amateur Radio – Dale Finley (KB5NFT)
- July – Dipole Antennas – Jim Eatman (KG5WAW)
- Aug – Homemade Buddy Pole Antenna – Michael Wideman (KG5MCC)
- Sept – Board of Directors Election
- Oct - ????

I want to take just a minute to remind you of a few HAM activities that are coming up soon, some sponsored by SARA, ARRL and other organizations.

- ARRL NTX Section Mentorfest 2019 – April 27th at the Hella Shrine in Garland. You can find out more at this link - www.arrlntx.org/mentorfest
- HAM Radio in the Park – Antenna Build/Fox Hunt – April 28th at Salmon Park, 12 noon. We will have information about what is needed at our April meeting.
- Sam's Club MS150 Bicycle Tour – May 4-5: They need communicators to help with many different roles. They will be using 2m as the primary communication path and need lots of APRS equipment. Please contact James Marple (KB5ZDG) @ j.marple@verizon.net as soon as possible for more information.

We continue the initial planning for Summer Field Day (June 22-23). We already have our call sign secured and the location (or two just in case). Our June meeting we'll be discussing the final plans for Summer Field day and we are likely to be a two-station site again just because of antenna space limitations. However, this is also a great time to bring any "experimental" rigs you might be playing with for a real-time field test. I did that with my FSQ "Go Kit" as well as my multi-band big "Go- Box" and was able to learn quite a bit about my own setup and how it performs "on the go". As a result, I have some modifications planned for my FT-897D go box to make it more flexible in an emergency situation.

We are also making progress on getting a club UHF repeater (no VHF frequencies are available). We have been provisionally offered a site and a few of us did a site survey there on the 6th of April. We're working on doing a temporary setup to test UHF propagation and will be looking for some volunteers to fan out around the area to do a simplex test with the temporary setup to ensure we can get comparable coverage with a UHF that we currently enjoy with Jeff Locke's N5LOC repeater. Join us on the Wednesday evening nets to get more information as it becomes available.

Don't forget to join us on our weekly net, Wednesday's at 8pm on the N5LOC repeater (145.25MHz, Minus shift, PL 141.3), watch for our Public Information Officer's (KC6TVF) emails, check our web site, and of course, read the newsletter.

Our next club meeting, at the Sachse Public Library, is on April 25th at 7:30pm.

73, W5JWS – John S

Please join us on the net (145.250 MHz, 141.3 PL) on Wednesdays at 8pm.

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YOUR SARA CLUB HAS AN EDUCATION OFFICER.

The Sachse Amateur Radio Association now has an education officer. Please welcome Leroy Michalow, K5AXP, as the Sachse Amateur Radio Association Education Officer. Lets not have Leroy do it alone. You can still assist. Do you know where the club's next educational presentation will come from, then pass that information along to Leroy. If you have contacts with other clubs then you can help so speak up. If you need some information about amateur radio then speak up. If you have a presentation that you would like to make to the club please speak up. Leroy can use your help.
Email Leroy at: kf5dat@gmail.com

DO YOU HAVE A STORY FOR THE SARA NEWSLETTER

Send anything that you think should go into the newsletter to me at: sara.newsletter@ix.netcom.com.

SACHSE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

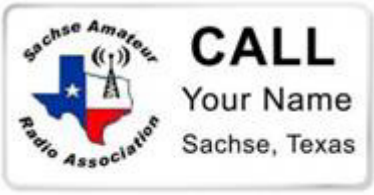
SARA vice-president Greg Kent, KK6AXF heads up the SARA Activities Committee. Anyone who is willing to help may contact Greg Kent, KK6AXF, at kk6axf@gmail.com.

SACHSE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION EDUCATION DIRECTOR

SARA education director Leroy Michalow, K5AXP, can use your assistance. If you can suggest or provide an educational program for the weekly NET or for the monthly club meeting please contact Leroy at: kf5dat@gmail.com.

NEED A SARA NAME BADGE

If you need a SARA name badge please go to https://namebadge.com/sachse.



NORTH TEXAS ARRL SECTION MENTORFEST 2019 IS STILL PLANNED

From the SachseRadio Face Book Page:

John W Smyder III shared a post.

ARRL - North Texas Section
From SM Jay Urish:

After saying publicly that Mentorfest 2019 would not happen because I was leaving office and was loathe to start something that I might not finish, The demand was still high enough to go ahead and with the support of my ASM's and both candidates for my office, we are going to give it a shot.

The Hella Shrine is reserved for us April 27, 2019. We will use the same time slot layout we had last year.

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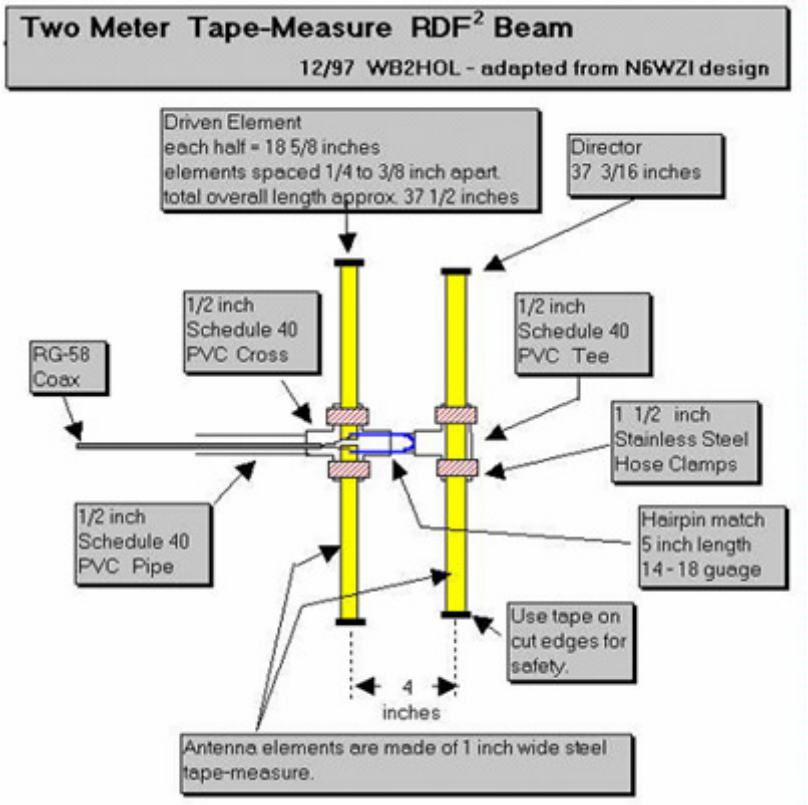

SARA IS HAVING HAM RADIO IN THE PARK

Sachse Amateur Radio Association is having Ham Radio in the Park at noon on Sunday, April 27, 2019. The last Ham Radio in the Park was May, 2017. Again we will be building the Two Meter, Tape Measure, Two Element, Yagi Beam Antennas. The antenna building will be followed by a Fox Hunt. The 2017 event was very well attended and a lot of fun.

SARA SKYWAVES

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APRIL

TIME TO CATCH UP ON ALL THE NEWS

THE ARRL NORTH TEXAS SECTION MANAGER, APRIL 15, 2019

I am seeking Nominations for a Ham of the Year of North Texas.

Nominations are to be emailed to KG5VK@ARRL.org.

The Nominee must be an ARRL member and reside in North Texas.

Nominations should be in Bullet Statement Format with details between each Bullet statement and a closing statement or summary.

Emails should include the subject line "Ham of the Year".

Also.

I am recruiting 16-20 year old Amateurs to become leaders of the youth area of our Section Manager Team.

Please email me KG5VK@ARRL.ORG.

The Nominee must be an ARRL member and reside in North Texas.

Those under 18 must have Parents permission.

Explain why you feel you would be a good candidate for this leadership position, or why you are recommending someone.

Emails should include the subject line "Leaders of the Youth".

Steve, KG5VK
Tele 318-470-9806
2019 ARRL NTX Section Manager

THE ARRL NORTH TEXAS SECTION MANAGER, APRIL 4, 2019

Subject: Greetings, from your New Section Manager

Howdy, North Texas ARRL members

It is a great honor to be your Section Manager, I am here to serve you. Please contact me by Email, kg5vk@arrl.org or Telephone 318-470-9805. If I do not answer, please leave a message with subject of your call.

Groups Email Reflector. I also highly recommend that members join https://Groups.io. Just go to https://arrlntx.groups.io/g/section/ and click on “Apply For Membership In This Group”. This is a great way for us to communicate with each other and with the group as a whole. You will get up to date news and you can unsubscribe at any time If you need help joining the Groups email reflector just send me an email saying so, and I will lend you a hand.

Another Tool, I am bringing with me to allow us (all of us) to communicate with each other is webinar – web + seminar. I use GoToWebinar, at https://www.gotomeeting.com/webinar. It allows us to hold Virtual meetings over the internet. This is a tool that is used by many Fortune 500 companies. I first used GoToWebinar on day one as your section manager, to visit with many of the District Emergency Coordinators and it seems to have been a great success, with nothing but positive feedback heard from the attendees.

We are now soliciting Nominees for a North Texas Ham of The Year award. Please email me (KG5VK@ARRL.ORG) nominations with the Email Subject Named "NTX Ham of The Year Nomination". I will announce a closing date for the nominations, at Ham Com in June.

The Most important message I would like to convey to you the ARRL North Texas members is this....

- I am here to serve you!
- I want to hear from you, whether it be at Ham Fests, by Email or by Telephone.

You are the reason I ran for office as your section manager.
Please join us on the net (145.250 MHz, 141.3 PL) on Wednesdays at 8pm.

I wish I could talk about Section manager business and ARRL business Over the Radio, but that crosses the line into conducting business over the air.

Please.....
I want to know what is on your mind. You as fellow Amateur Radio operators and ARRL members are my focus. I have an excellent team that is concentrating on all things ARES, so that I can focus on *Members*, but I can not read your minds.

As promised during my Campaign I will make as many club meetings as I personally can. I am also recruiting Section Ambassadors to help with out reach The Section Ambassador idea came from Ken Mitchell KD2KW, during a working lunch about two weeks ago, many thanks to Ken for working with me after I won the election.

I will be at the Belton Ham Fest this Saturday, the Emory Ham Fest on the 11th of May and Ham Com the first week of June.

Please do not over look our great Section Website designed by Jerry Goodson. http://www.arrlntx.org/news.

Cheers!
Steve, KG5VK
ARRL North Texas Section
kg5vk@arrl.org

THE ARRL NORTH TEXAS SECTION MANAGER, APRIL 3, 2019

Subject: [arrlntx] Welcome to Greg Evans K5GTX our New Section Emergency Coordinator

On April the 2nd, I met with Greg Evans K5GTX.

We visited for almost two hours over some Bar BQ in Wylie Texas.

We talked about his experience in ECOM, ARES and Ham Radio in General. It was quickly obvious to me that he is a Team player and loves to work with others.

His statement that he wants all the ASEC (Assistant Section Emergency Coordinators) to be involved in all the dynamics of the position, so that if anyone falls out, our mission will carry on. [This] was one of the highlights of our conversation, and there were many highlights.

In fact the virtual glass was half full throughout our meeting, although we did discus some trying issues that we all face with ECOM and have a mutual understanding on how to address the thorns that are ever present today.

Training while not a thorn is a big concern of both of ours. The lack of current ARES manuals and even brochures is another concern. Greg and I are working these issues as fast, but as precise as we can.

With his Military experience and mine, I felt really great in choosing to interview him. Less than half way into our meeting, Greg and I were practically finishing each others sentences to mutual satisfaction. We also listened to each other and both smiled and knew he is the right man for the job as our North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator.

Just more positives...
Greg has a great working relationship with Jerry Goodson W5BFF, as well as many other ECOM amateurs and professionals alike. This will of course provide our section with continuity and a greater depth of expertise.

Please join me in welcoming Greg Evans to the team as our Section Emergency Coordinator.

Steve, KG5VK
ARRL North Texas Section
kg5vk@arrl.org

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THE ARRL LETTER FOR APRIL 11, 2019

SOLAR CYCLE 25 PREDICTED TO BE SIMILAR TO CYCLE 24

Scientists predicting the sun's activity for Solar Cycle 25 say it's likely to be much like that of current Cycle 24, which is declining and predicted to bottom out in 2019 or 2020. Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel experts said Solar Cycle 25 may get off to a slow start, but is anticipated to peak between 2023 and 2026 with a sunspot range of 95 to 130. This is well below the typical average of 140 to 220 sunspots per solar cycle. The panel expressed high confidence that the coming cycle should break the trend of weakening solar activity seen over the past four cycles. The Solar Cycle Prediction Panel forecasts the number of sunspots expected for solar maximum, along with the timing of the peak and minimum solar activity levels for the cycle. The outlook was presented on April 5 at the 2019 NOAA Space Weather Workshop in Boulder, Colorado.

"We expect Solar Cycle 25 will be very similar to cycle 24: Another fairly weak cycle, preceded by a long, deep minimum," said panel co-chair Lisa Upton, a solar physicist with Space Systems Research Corp. "The expectation that Cycle 25 will be comparable in size to Cycle 24 means that the steady decline in solar cycle amplitude, seen from cycles 21 - 24, has come to an end and that there is no indication that we are currently approaching a Maunder-type minimum in solar activity."

The solar cycle prediction gives a rough idea of the frequency of space weather storms of all types, from radio blackouts to geomagnetic storms and solar radiation storms. In addition to its effects on Amateur Radio signal propagation, space weather can affect power grids; critical military, airline, and shipping communications; satellites and GPS signals, and can even threaten astronauts through exposure to harmful radiation.

Solar Cycle 24 reached its maximum in April 2014, with a peak average of 82 sunspots. The sun's northern hemisphere led the sunspot cycle, peaking more than 2 years ahead of the southern hemisphere sunspot peak. Given that the sun takes 11 years to complete one solar cycle, this is only the fourth time that US scientists have issued a solar cycle prediction. The first panel convened in 1989 for cycle 22.

For Solar Cycle 25, the panel hopes for the first time to predict the presence, amplitude, and timing of any differences between the northern and southern hemispheres on the sun, known as hemispheric asymmetry. Later this year, the panel will release an official sunspot number curve showing the predicted number of sunspots during any given year and any expected asymmetry. The panel will also look into the possibility of providing a solar flare probability forecast.

"While we are not predicting a particularly active Solar Cycle 25, violent eruptions from the sun can occur at any time," said Doug Biesecker, panel co-chair and a solar physicist at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC).

Visit the SWPC (https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/) to obtain the latest space weather forecast.

THE ARRL LETTER FOR MARCH 21, 2019

A NEW WEST GULF DIVISION VICE DIRECTOR HAS BEEN APPOINTED.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has announced his choice of past South Texas Section Manager Lee Cooper, W5LHC, of Leander, Texas, to be the new Vice Director for the West Gulf Division. "I've known Lee for a number of years and really look forward to having him on the Board team," Roderick said. Cooper's appointment fills a vacancy created when former West Gulf Division Vice Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, moved up to the Director's chair in January after Director Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV, announced his retirement. Cooper served as South Texas Section Manager for 9 years before stepping down in 2018. In addition, he was South Texas Public Information Coordinator from 2004 until 2009, and Emergency Coordinator from 2000 until 2004. Cooper also served as Assistant Director for Emergency Communications in the West Gulf Division, and was a founding member of the Texas Division of Emergency Management Communications Coordination Group.

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FCC ADOPTS NEW RULES FOR SPECTRUM ABOVE 95 GHZ

The FCC has adopted new rules to encourage development of new communication technologies and expedite the deployment of new services above 95 GHz. The action was the latest move in the Commission's "Spectrum Horizons" branded initiative.

"This spectrum has long been considered the outermost horizon of the usable spectrum range, but rapid advancements in radio technology have made these bands especially ripe for new development," the FCC said in announcing the March 15 move.

Prior to its "historic" decision last week, the FCC had no rules for authorizing communication above 95 GHz other than by radio amateurs or through experimental operations. Under current rules, specific Amateur Radio allocations exist at 122.25 - 123.00 GHz; 134 - 141 GHz; 241 - 250 GHz, and at frequencies above 300 GHz, and limited experimentation has taken place in this region of the radio spectrum.

Among radio amateurs active in that region of the spectrum is Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, in Virginia -- who has made at least one contact on every available Amateur Radio band. He earned the first-ever ARRL VUCC awards for 122 GHz, 134 GHz, and 241 GHz, and even went so far as to make the first contact on a less-than-1-millimeter band, 322 GHz.

In announcing adoption of the new rules for spectrum above 95 GHz, the FCC cited "substantial opportunities for innovation on these frequencies, especially for data-intensive high-bandwidth applications as well as imaging and sensing operations."

The new rules create a new "Spectrum Horizons" experimental license for using frequencies between 95 GHz and 3 THz. "These licenses will give innovators the flexibility to conduct experiments lasting up to 10 years, and to more easily market equipment during the experimental period," the FCC said. The FCC action also makes a total of 21.2 GHz of spectrum available for use by unlicensed devices.

At the invitation of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, well-known academic researcher, entrepreneur, contester, and DXer Theodore "Ted" Rappaport, N9NB, delivered remarks prior to the Spectrum Horizons vote. Read more AT:
http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-adopts-new-rules-for-spectrum-above-95-ghz-in-branded-spectrum-horizons-initiative

OTHER NEWS

HAM RADIO REPORT OF FLYING SAUCER CRASH IN HAWAII

A tale of a “flying saucer” that crashed into the side of a cliff on one of the Hawaiian Islands was relayed to St. Louis area radio ”hams” yesterday by the operator of station KH6LZ, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Henry Chrun, Riverview boulevard, quoted the sender as saying the saucer, about 15 feet high and 20 feet in diameter, had five steps “like on an elephant hunters hat” and had six holes on each side, giving it the appearance of a musical top.

The saucer was said to have been half buried in the Cliffside and a nearby resident reportedly heard someone scurrying from the crash scene.

Chrun, an Air Force pilot in World War II, said he didn’t know quite what to make of the broadcast. “I can visualize a musical top,” he said, “but I have never run across a flying saucer or an elephant hunter’s hat.”

(Reported April Fools Day, 1950, by The Honolulu Star-Bulletin)

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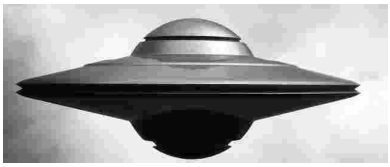
HERMAN MUNSTER ON THE AIR CALLING CQ



Our friends at the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club News at the Grayson County Amateur Radio Club in Sherman offer this entertainment. Herman Munster calling CQ on Ham Radio: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-8RItOZE30&feature=youtu.be.
I do not think that Herman had anything to do with the flying saucer scare of the 50's.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO TRANSMIT INTEROPERABILITY EXERCISE INFO VIA WWV/WWVH

The US Department of Defense (DOD) plans to start making use of a provisional time slot on WWV and WWVH to announce upcoming HF military communication exercises and how the Amateur Radio community can become involved in them. The announcements will occur at 10 minutes past on WWV and at 50 minutes past on WWVH. WWV and WWVH transmit on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz.

"DOD's use of the broadcast time slot on WWV/WWVH will benefit the MARS program's mission of outreach to the Amateur Radio community," said US Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY. "The actual messages to be broadcast are coordinated by the DOD Headquarters that the MARS program supports."

The initial announcements are set for the period April 20 – May 3, which coincides with the "Vital Connection" interoperability exercise to be held in Wisconsin. Future time slots will coincide with the Vital Connection exercise Ohio in June; DOD COMEX 19-3 in August, and the DOD COMEX 19-4 in October. Following the proof of concept this year, DOD anticipates making use of the WWV/WWVH broadcast time slot full time, year-round.

At the outset, broadcast messages will likely be static. For future exercises, announcements could be updated throughout an exercise. The messages will direct listeners to a specified website to provide reception reports and feedback.

The reception report will also ask the listener to submit a survey that will be shared among DOD, MARS, and WWV/WWVH personnel. English said that the survey will ask listeners questions about how often they listen to WWV/WWVH signals, how they use them, and what types of messages they would like to hear, but he notes that the survey is still under development.

"We want to provide feedback to WWV/WWVH to improve situational awareness of who is using their service and how it's being used, as well as future considerations," English said.

HONDA PORTABLE GENERATORS RECALLED DUE TO POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARD

ARRL - 2019

American Honda has announced that it's voluntarily recalling some 200,000 of its portable generators sold in the US due to a potential fire and burn hazard. The recall includes the EU2200i, EU2200i Companion, and EB2200i generators. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says the affected portable generators can leak gasoline from the fuel valve. Users should stop operating the recalled generator and contact an authorized Honda dealer for a free repair. Honda is also contacting users directly. For more information, visit the CPSC website. A similar recall has been issued in Canada.

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A SIMPLE 2M/70CM VERTICAL DIPOLE ANTENNA YOU CAN BUILD PRESENTED BY JOHN, W5JWS

This antenna is a build that is based on "A Simple 2m_70cm Vertical Dipole Antenna" by Dave Tadlock (KG0ZZ) found at "Zed Zed's Workbench" (link to his version) and a similar design featured in the Plano Amateur Radio Klub March 2016 Newsletter by B.J Watkins, K5BJW (he used 3/16" aluminum rod and 2 pieces of 14awg wire to connect the SO-239). I took the liberty to make some very minor modifications to both of these to make what I am sharing with you here.

Now to get started here are the parts I used:

- 1 each ¾" Electrical LNB
- 1 each ¾" Electrical 90 degree
- 1 each ¾" Sched 40 PVC Plug
- 2 each #6 x 32 x 1" (25 mm) Machine screws.
- 2 each #6 x 32 Wing nuts.
- 2 each #6 Split lock washers.
- 2 each #6 External tooth lock washers
- 2 each #6 Crimp on ring connectors
- 2 each 1/8" x 1" Fender Washers
- 2 each 1/8 in. x 36 in. Plain Steel Cold Rolled Round Rod
- 1 each SO-239
- 1 each ~3" piece of RG-318 or equivalent

I was able to get all the hardware at my local Home Depot and the SO-239 is available at Fry's, HRO, or Amazon.

My first order of business was to get a hole in the "back" of the LNB for the SO-239 and get a short piece of the RG-318 connected. The coax center conductor is attached to center pin of the SO-329 and the shield is carefully "combed" back, twisted and connected to the ground ring of the SO-239. NOTE: Solder the shield first and put the ring around the back of the SO-239 and then solder the center conductor in place (you'll understand why I put this in if you didn't read the previous sentence and did the center first).

Once the coax is soldered to the SO-239 and the connector is in the LNB and secure, strip the other end of the coax, "comb" the shield so you can twist it in to a "single strand" then tin both with solder. At this point I crimped my two #6 ring connectors on the coax (see below).

Next I marked the center line of the LNB top and place two holes for the #6 hardware 1 ¾" apart (more or less centered top to bottom) and used the #6 screw and external tooth lock washer to capture the crimp on ring connectors as shown below. Make sure you have your external tooth lock washer on the screw last so that it can help grab the plastic cover some:

At this point you can put the gasket on that came with the LNB and close it up (Hint: Put the wing nuts on the screws temporarily so your screws don't fall back in to the box).

If you look closely, you can see an arrow drawn in pencil on the inside of the cover. That is the top. Notice the center conduction of the coax is connected there.

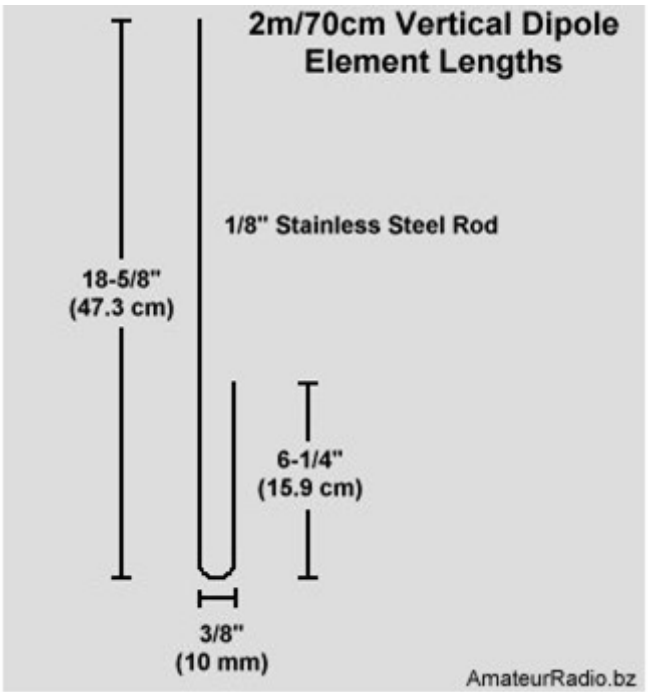
Here is what it looks like all buttoned up:

Notice I have a pencil arrow on the outside too, that was a lesson learned from the proto-type I built (forgot which was top and wasn't paying attention when I put the cover on).

The hardware stack up on the top of the LNB is the fender washer on the bottom, the split lock, and then the wing nut.

The good news is that you should be able to reach the head of both screws by sticking your fingers in the holes of the LNB. You can't tighten these down because we are going to put our steel rods that we're going to bend under the fender washers and we need to be able to slide the steel rods around to allow for tuning at the end of the project.

Here are the dimensions of the finished steel rods from Zed Zed's web site:



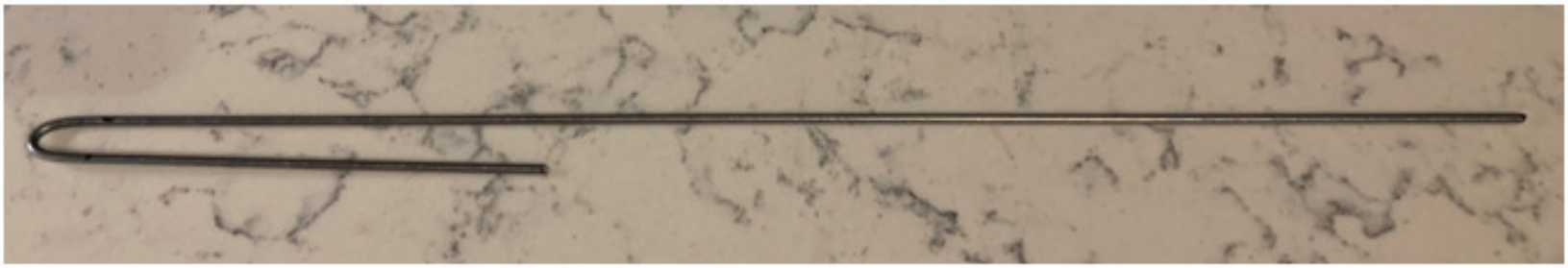
NOTE: Don't try to bend your rod to these dimensions, just keep the final lengths in mind when you do bend them (one long side, one short side) so you can cut to length after bending them.

Please join us on the net (145.250 MHz, 141.3 PL) on Wednesdays at 8pm.

In order to get the 3/8" radius I put a 3/8" drill bit in my vice and then simply bent the rod around that bit. It gave me a nice radius and helped me know that I was at 3/8". Do your best to get the long and short sides parallel. Once you have them bent, measure from the back of the bend to 6 ¼" for the 70cm side and 18 5/8" for the 2m side and mark with a Sharpie. The two lengths combined will give you approximately a ½ wavelength antenna for 2m and 70cm.

I then used a hack saw to start a "notch" at each mark. Once the notch was there these rods were small enough to just break off with a couple of bends. NOTE: If you forget to cut them you will have a horrendous SWR when you check with the antenna analyzer (ask me how I know).

Here is what one of the bent rods looks like:



My proto-type version is going in my attic, so I didn't do anything to the steel rods, but on the second build I used some rust inhibiting paint. I did make sure that I didn't paint anything that had potential to be under the fender washer (that is what helps short across the bended end and gives you a 70cm and 2M lengths the radio 'sees').

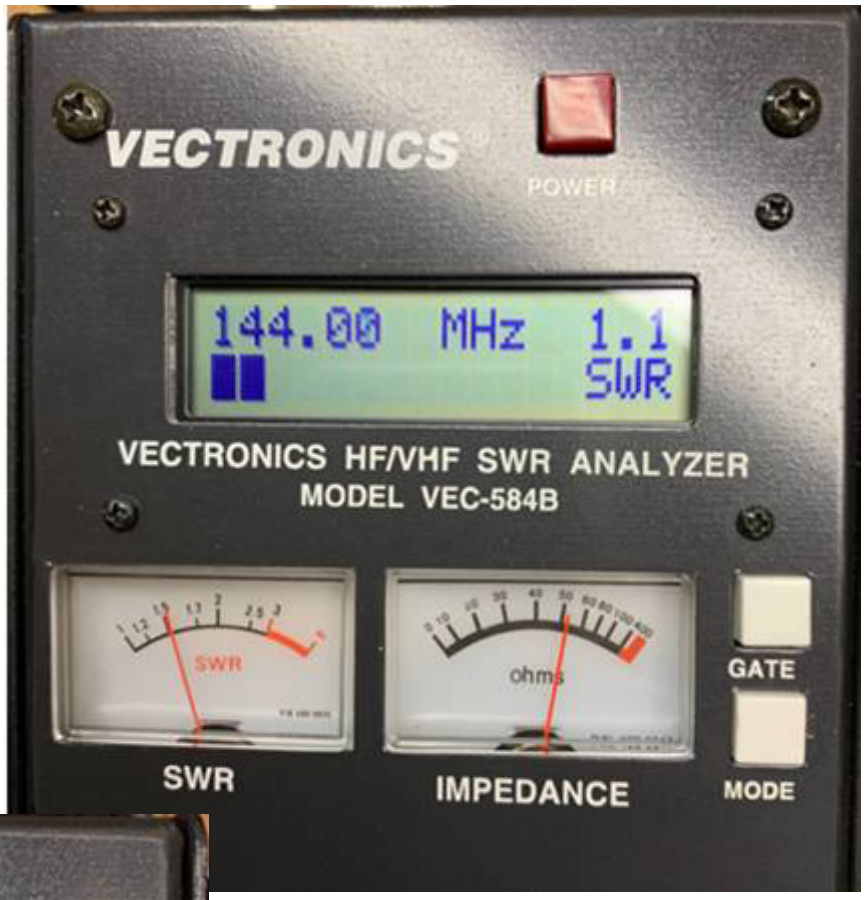
Now that we have two of these, we just slide them under the fender washer and tighten the wings nuts just enough to hold them in place (remember you are going to slide them in/out to get your best SWR on the antenna analyzer).

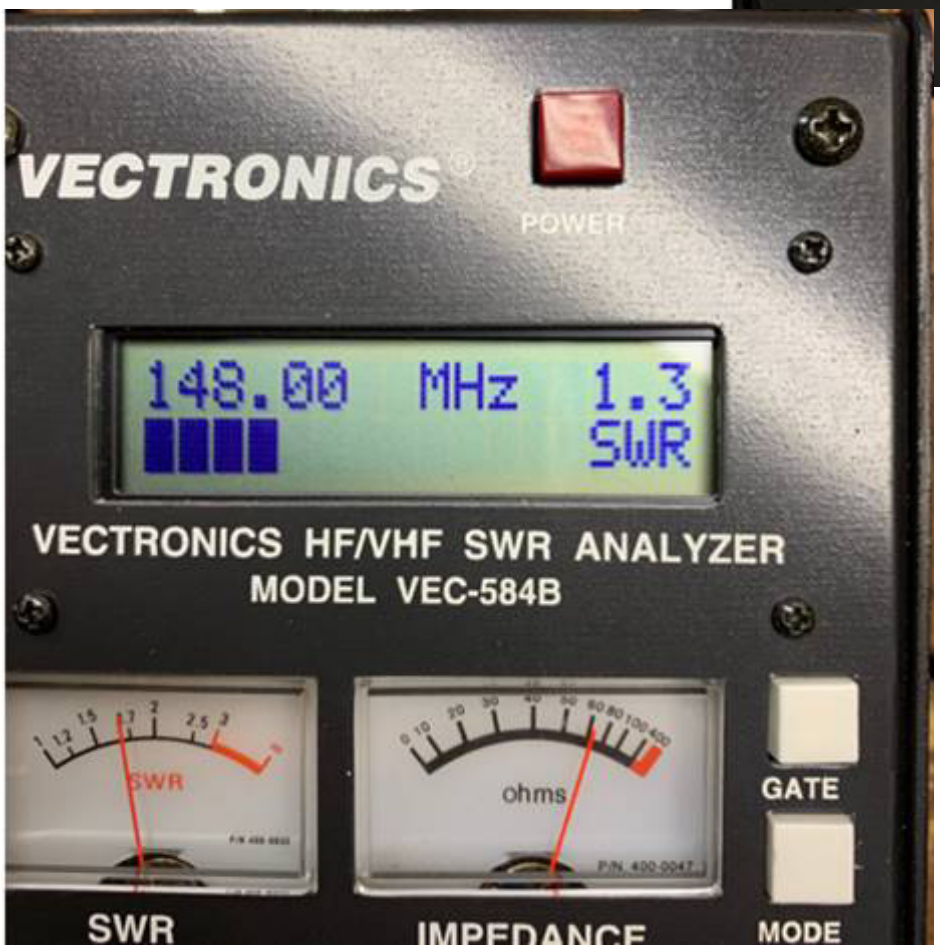
This is what you should have once your rods are installed:

Notice I have the ¾" schedule 40 PVC plug in the bottom hole of the LNB (left side of picture). I wouldn't glue that in until you are done adjusting the VSWR.

This is the point that I put the ¾" 90 degree conduit on the back so that I could temporarily lash this up on one of the cross beams in my shack. Once temporarily held up, I connected a 25' piece of coax to the new antenna and to my antenna analyzer. Here are the readings I got at the low and high ends of the 2m band.

APRIL


VECTRONICS
POWER
144.00 MHz 1.1
SWR
VECTRONICS HF/VHF SWR ANALYZER
MODEL VEC-584B
SWR
ohms
GATE
MODE
SWR
IMPEDANCE


VECTRONICS
POWER
148.00 MHz 1.3
SWR
VECTRONICS HF/VHF SWR ANALYZER
MODEL VEC-584B
SWR
ohms
GATE
MODE
SWR
IMPEDANCE

My analyzer won't do UHF so I actually hooked it up to my FT-897 with an SWR/Watt meeting in line and saw very similar results on the UFH side. All my readings were 1.4:1 or less across both bands.

Here is a picture of it sitting my office on a boom mic stand for its first "portrait".

I have been able to talk on the N5LOC, K5WRK, K5PRK, and other repeaters with very good reports.

This was an inexpensive (have around $20-25 in both antennas) and fun project to build.

73, W5JWS

SAM'S CLUB MS150 BICYCLE TOUR

Calling all hams…. MAY 4th and 5th

I need RADIO OPERATORS for the Sam's Club MS150 Bicycle Tour

MS150 Frisco to Ft. Worth – Link to Ride Maps and other info
https://secure.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/TXHBikeEvents?pg=entry&fr_id=30200

The ride is a 163 mile cycling journey to raise money to fund the care and the cure for 25,000 Texans affected by Multiple Sclerosis.

The 2019 Tour starts in Frisco, overnights in Grapevine Lake Park and finishes in Ft. Worth at Sundance Square!

Amateur radio operators are needed to provide the critical communication needs that this event must have to succeed. Hundreds of area hams have volunteered over the past 25+ years, and you are needed once again!

Volunteer for both days, or choose Saturday or Sunday. Special SAG will be available to return Saturday only communicators to starting area. 2 meters will be the primary mode of communication, and we need lots of APRS equipment.

Please help pass the word.

As we get closer to the event, updates to the Communicator's Website will be available Register now and make your lodging or camping plans ASAP.

DFW MSRide Comms - Communicator Link for the Ham side of the event.
https://sites.google.com/site/dfwmsridecomms/

This is a volunteer-lead effort, and I want to extend a BIG thanks to all of the regulars that work this event and a welcome to our 1st timers!

A special thanks to Chadwick, KD5UMO for updating his website with fresh information each year and providing such an easy sign-up tool!

Get your name in the hat and let us know your desired assignment, we will do our best to accommodate. Feel free to email me with any questions.

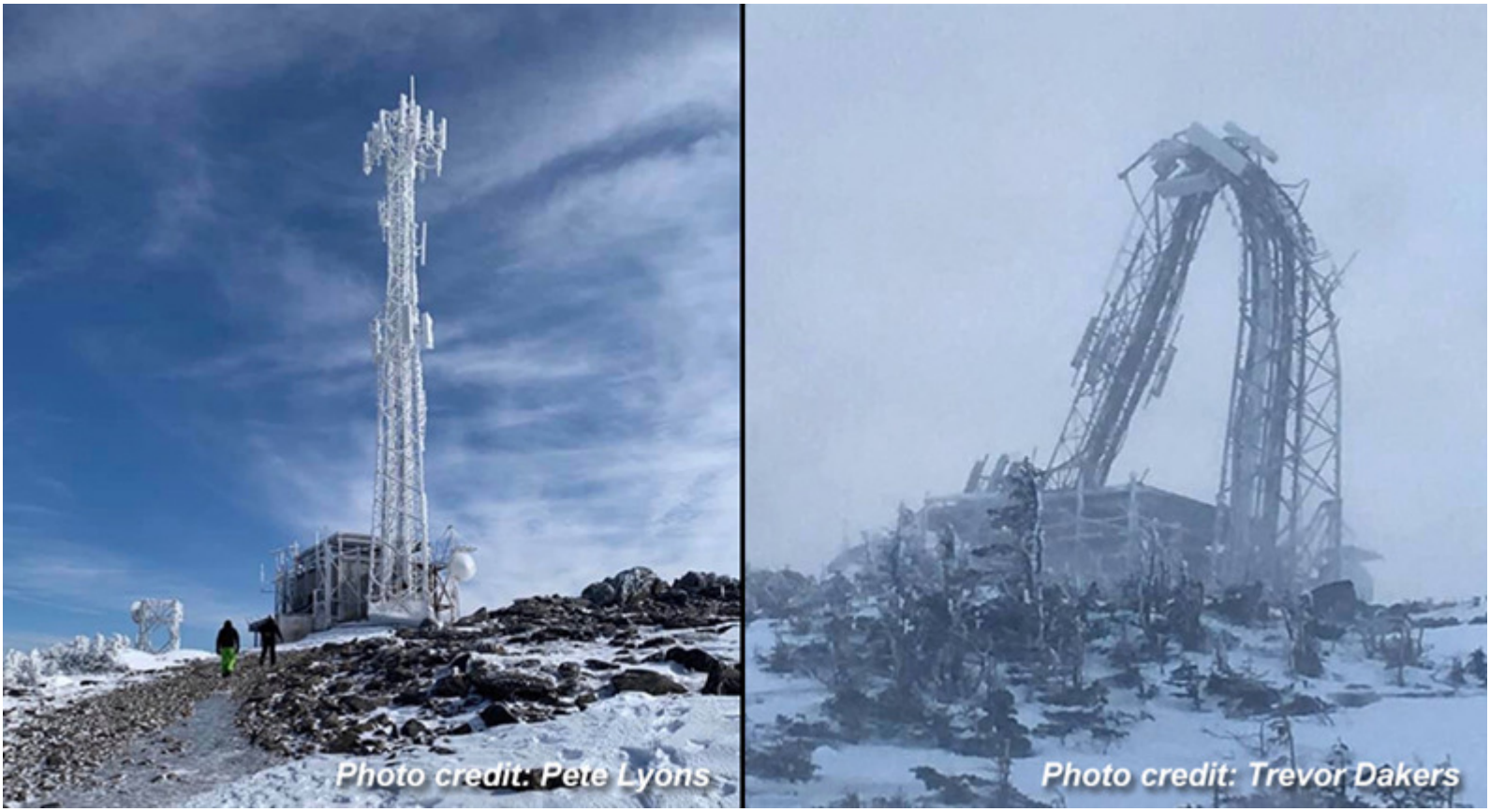
Regards,

James Marple, KB5ZDG

MS150 Communications

j.marple@verizon.net

HIGH WINDS AND ICE COLLAPSE COMMUNICATIONS TOWER



A communications tower on the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain in Carrabassett Valley, Maine was severely damaged by hurricane strength winds yesterday afternoon. The tower is owned by Somerset Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom and hosts several cellular phone carriers, as well as other third party communication services.

At this time, TDS officials are working a coordinated effort to assess impacts and contact carriers who license facilities on the tower.

Due to harsh winter weather conditions at the summit all TDS employees, contractors and carrier agents must wait to approach until winds reduce to safer levels, perhaps later Tuesday or Wednesday.

The two-story building under the tower site remains operational with power and heat according to data being collected from the unmanned site, but the condition of the building structure is yet unknown.

Once conditions improve, a full site evaluation will be conducted and plans for tower restoration will begin.

Photo credits: Pete Lyons and Trevor Dakers

Reference: https://tdstelecom.com/about/news/categories/tds/hurricanewindstoppletower.html

Also see: https://www.wcvb.com/article/wind-topples-communications-tower-sugarloaf-maine-mountain/26524227

This story is courtesy of The Wavelength Newsletter of The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club in Bell County.

SARA SKYWAVES

KF5NBO

APRIL

SACHSE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MONTHY CLUB MEETING, 03-28-2019

KF5NBO

SARA SKYWAVES

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SACHSE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MONTHY CLUB MEETING, 03-28-2019

Sachse Amateur Radio Association

KF5NBO

SARA SKYWAVES

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Sachse Amateur Radio Association

KF5NBO

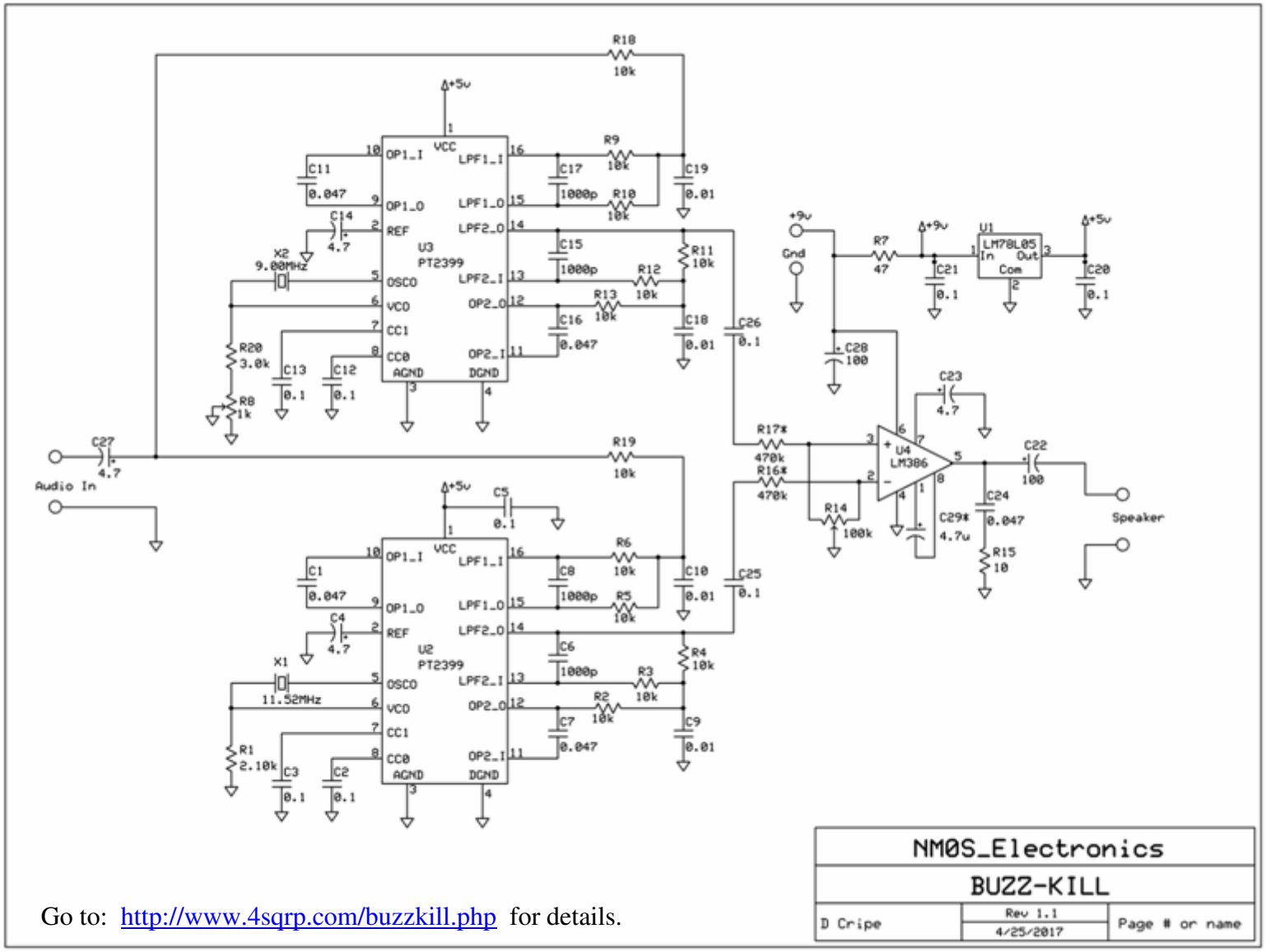
SARA SKYWAVES

APRIL

DO IT YOURSELF: MURANIA, THE BUZZ-KILL, DESIGNED BY DAVID CRIPE, NMØS

If your receiver is plagued with 60/120 cycle buzzing in your shack or favorite portable QTH, the BUZZ-KILL will save your sanity. From the creative mind of NMØS, the BUZZ-KILL is a special audio filter that removes 60 cycle noise and all of its harmonics, beating them down 40 db or more - it kills the buzz! If you have been suffering with bad line noise QRM, this add-on audio accessory will make ALL the difference in your rig's reception. Similar in concept to the Hi-Per-Mite, it is a drop-in AUDIO filter/AUDIO amp with configurable gain. This filter is unique - it is not a noise blanker. Instead, it has a notch at 60Hz and at _every_ harmonic of 60Hz, so it will completely null all the power line frequency hum and buzz that plagues the HF bands, it's just gone! ALL THROUGH HOLE parts ensure an easy build, there are NO SMT parts.

This is a compact, flexible design that can be used as a stand-alone outboard unit, or it can be easily integrated into an existing receiver (see manual for details). It's onboard audio amp is capable of driving a speaker or headphones. Gain is constant from 100 Hz to 5kHz, so it can be used with any CW, SSB or AM receiver.



Go to: http://www.4sqrp.com/buzzkill.php for details.

CHARLES ANDERSON'S, KE5RFS(SK), EQUIPMENT FOR SALE
CONTACT JOHN BRIGGS, KC5TVF, FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS

		Brand	Model #	Approx New Price	Approx Current Used Value	Notes
1	1	Yaesu	VX-7R	$175.00	$160.00	has box and carry case
3	1	Kenwood	MC-60A	$139.00	$87.99	has box
4	1	Juentai	JT-6188 mini	$96.89	$68.00	has box
5	1	Yaesu	FT-60	$300.00	$230.19	no box
6	1	Yaesu	FT-7800R	$290.00	$220.00	has box
8	1	Diamond	MX-2000	$112.00	$90.00	no box
9	1	MFJ	MFJ-817	$99.95	$85.00	no box
10	1	Yeaesu	MH-48A6JA	$59.95	$20.00	damaged cord, has box, likely old one, spare
11	1	Polyphaser	IS-B50HU-C1	$78.50	$60.00	
12	1	Comet	SMA-24	$29.80	$20.00	new in pkg - antenna
13	1	Yaesu	MH-34	$31.00	$20.00	no box
14	1	Maldol	MH-510	$32.95		antenna
15	1	Nagoya	NA-761	$14.97		antenna
16	1	MFJ	MFJ-1717S	$27.64		antenna is on radio already - price to be added to purchase of radio
17	1	MFJ	MFJ-108B	$21.95		in box
19	1	Radio Shack	N/A	$-	$-	headphones - no box
20	1	?	11A99	$-	$-	magnetic antenna - used
21	1	MTC	UV-3R	$55.95	$35.00	radio on stick - has box
22	1	?	?	$-	$-	magnetic antenna - used
23	1	Kenwood	TS-2000	$1,399.95	$995.00	Kenwood base unit
24	2	?	?	$69.00	$50.00	Mobile stainless steel telescoping antenna
25	1	Juentai	X000SNPKUP	$50.00	$20.00	usb programming cable
28	1	Radio Shack	PRO-2042	$99.00	$60.00	1000 channel scanner
30	1	Kenwood	SP-23	$150.00	$85.00	Kenwood external speaker
31	3	Misc		$30.00		$30 each new - programming cables
33	1	Mirage	B-310-G	$269.00	$220.00	2 meter power amp
34	1	Astron	RS-35A	$177.00	$149.00	35 amp DC power supply
35	1	Astron	RS-7A	$93.00	$86.00	7 amp power supply
36	1	Yaesu	FT-1802			FM transceiver
37	1	Diawa	CX-201A	$38.00	$25.00	coax switch
39	1	?	?	$-	$-	heat sink
40	1	MFJ	MFJ-921	$79.95	$49.00	dual band tuner
41	1	Kay	70-0	$-	$-	attenuator - cannot find pricing
42	1	Meteos	Skywatch Sport Line	$104.95	$75.00	Wind speed temp meter

All of these items are still for sale.

Please join us on the net (145.250 MHz, 141.3 PL) on Wednesdays at 8pm.

Free Event! - Hosted by the Hella Hams and the ARRL North Texas Section
When: April 27, 2019 Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Location: Hella Shrine Center, 2121 Rowlett Rd., Garland, TX 75043

The Garland Hella Hams and the ARRL North Texas Section would like to invite all current and prospective Hams to attend Mentorfest! This event is a great way for Hams, especially those recently licensed, to meet and learn about a variety of subjects. Amateur radio operators have a great tradition of helping each other learn about and gain experience in the many facets of the hobby. Mentorfest is designed to build on this tradition by providing a place for Hams of all ages and experience levels to come together, exchange knowledge and make new friends while having fun and enjoying the great hobby of Amateur Radio.

Mentorfest will feature....

- Formal presentations on a number of topics.
- Local clubs providing information on their activities.
- "Elmers" (ham-speak for mentors) available for informal discussions on just about any topic.
- Tours of emergency communications vehicles.
- Representatives from the ARRL, Local Clubs, ARES/RACES, and others showing how you can get involved.

Mentoring

In addition to the formal presentations, mentoring will be available on a large range of topics. Many amateur radio clubs, individual Hams and organizations with ties to amateur radio will be at Mentorfest to answer questions and provide demonstrations in a very informal setting.

If you have something amateur radio related that you would like to show and tell about, please consider attending Mentorfest. Your excitement about a favorite subject might be an inspiration to another Ham. Come share your knowledge and experience. Email mentorfest@arrlntx.org to be a mentor.

Participants & Volunteers

All ARRL affiliated clubs are encouraged to participate in Mentorfest by at least having an information table with club representatives. The ARRL will be promoting Mentorfest to new Hams so there should be opportunities for clubs to recruit new members. If your club or group is interested in participating in Mentorfest, please send E-mail to mentorfest@arrlntx.org. This event is free for everyone!

Volunteers are needed to help will the following tasks.

Parking lot control for EMComm vehicle static displays.

Greeters to help direct attendees to where to get the answers they seek.

Email mentorfest@arrlntx.org to volunteer.

JOHNNIE'S, KG5CQO, HAM STATION

These are my antennas located on the back of my home.

Both are mounted on the top of a 10 ft galvanized pipe that is strapped to the fascia board which is bolted to the roof joists. The antenna for my 2m/440 rig is a Jetstream which can take up to 90 MPH wind and a max power of 200 watts.

The antenna for my HF rig is a Cushcraft R8 and covers 6, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, and 40 meters. It can take up to 80 MPH winds and max power 1500 (PEP) w/o speech processing, 750 (CW), and 500 (FM/PSK).

The other picture shows my setup of my radios.

The radio on the left is a YAESU FTM-400DR/DE. It is a dual band with a separate head and has a touch screen. This rig will put out 50w

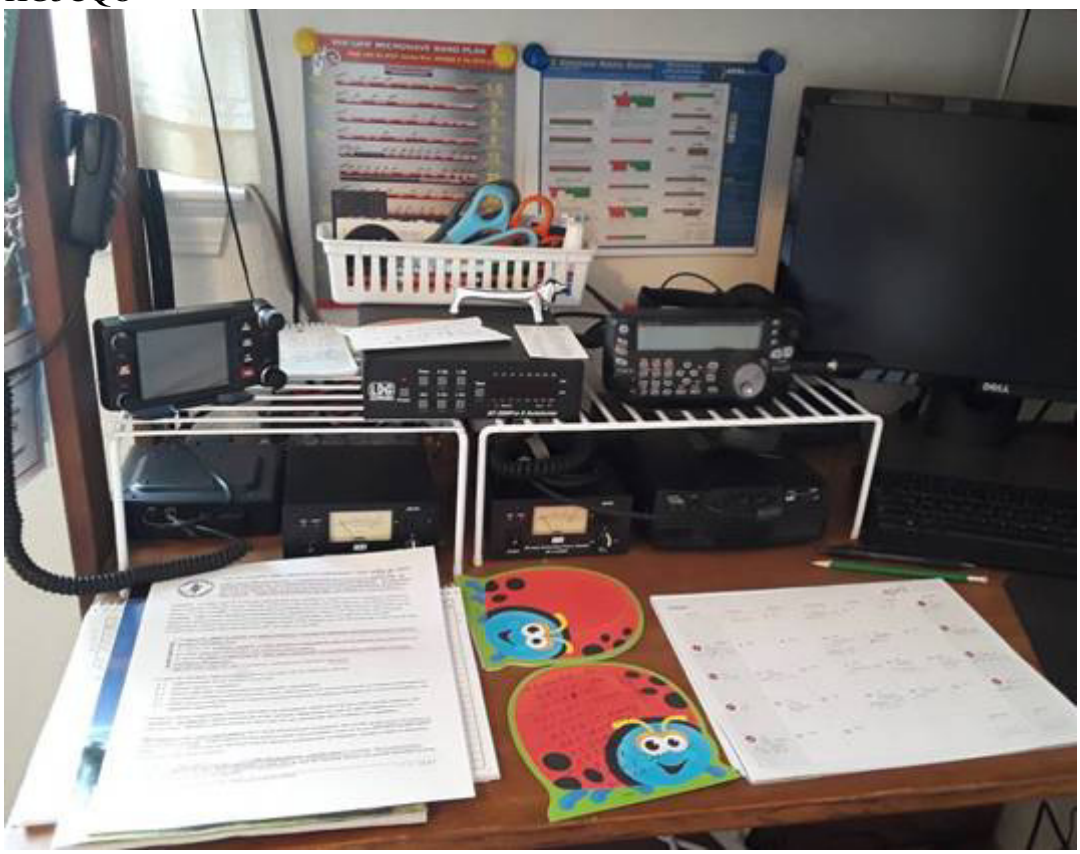
The radio on the right is a Kenwood TS-480HX. This HF rig will put out 200w.

Both units were purchased second hand but in excellent condition.

My ham room is actually in my home and every thing is set-up next to the window. My brother made me a plate with the antenna connectors. This plate is in the window space right next to the table.

I hope to have this set up for a while and make lots of contacts.

Johnnie
KG5CQO



SARA SKYWAVES

KF5NBO

APRIL

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2019

Start time: 7:30 pm
Location: Sachse Library
Facilitator: John Smyder (W5JWS), President

Opening

John Smyder – (W5JWS)

Opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance
Everyone introduced themselves and gave their call sign

Attendees

18 members
16 guests

President's report – John Smyder – (W5JWS)

QSO breakfast – Saturday 8:00 at Woodbridge Café in Sachse
Next board meeting is April 11th at W5JWS's home
Next testing session is April 13th at the Wylie Masonic Lodge
Next general meeting is April 25th for 7:30 pm
Need committee volunteers to help with Summer Field Day please contact **Greg Kent – KK6AXF**

Vice-President – Greg Kent – (KK6AXF)

Ham Radio in the Park – April 28th
Antenna build/Fox Hunt
Salmon Park at noon
Summer Field Day – June 22nd and 23rd

Secretary – Johnnie Young – (KG5CQO)

Minutes have been submitted and are on the web site and in the newsletter
Motion to accept— **David Mandala – (KG5WFS)**
2nd to accept motion – **Lonnie Webb – (KG5WHQ)**
All agreed – motion passed

Treasurer – David Mandala (KG5WFS)

Report was presented and reviewed
Petty cash will be moved to bank account
Motion to accept – Gregg Kent – (KK6AXF)
2nd to accept motion – John Briggs – (KC6TVF)
All agreed – motion passed

Information Officer – John Briggs (KC6TVF)

Need volunteers for NCS
April 3 – Mark Mantooth (KI5CYA)
April 10 – John Smyder (W5JWS)
April 17 – Johnnie Young (KG5CQO)
April 24 – Lonnie Webb (KG5WHQ)
May 1 – Han Vo (KI5COI)

Newsletter Editor – John Abbott (KF5FWK)

News letter was sent via e-mail and will be on the SARA web site
Always can use news articles and recipes
Take pictures at all events & send to **John Abbott – KF5FWK**
Take pictures of your antenna or shack set up
Info should be sent to **John Abbott (KF5FWK)** by the Monday before the next meeting

John Smyder – (W5JWS)

Club received a Thank You note from Five Loaves for our donation

Director-at-large – Jeff Locke – (N5LOC)

Not in attendance

John Smyder – (W5JWS)

Informed everyone that Jeff Locke – (N5LOC) had a serious fall and is in the hospital in ICU
Please keep him in your prayers

Education Officer's report – John Smyder – (W5JWS)

General Meeting Events

March – Winlink – **John Galvin – N5TIM**
April – ARDEN Networking – **Andrew Koenig – KE5GDB**
May – Scouting and Amateur Radio – **Dale Finley – KB5NFT**
June – Summer Field Day Final Planning
July – Dipole – **James Eatman – KG5WAW**
August – Homemade Buddy Pole Antenna – **Michael Wideman** -- possible
September – Board of Directors elections

Need a nomination committee for Board of Directors

Member and Visitors Comments:

Johnnie Young – (KG5CQO)

Thanks to all the visitors and guest attending tonight

John Abbott – (KF5FWK)

General Class for 5 weeks on Tuesday nights

May 28 through June 25
Testing on June 27
Last session before updated book and test goes into effect

Bill Caldwell – (AC5BC)

June 29 – Blue Grass on Ballard – need help parking cars
April 9 – the East Fork Masonic Lodge in Wylie has its Fish fry and blood drive fund raiser, 11:00 to 6:00

Paul Newman – (KA5TYW)

FSQ mesh is open and available 24 hr.

Doug Priebe – (AG5HB)

Mentor Fest is April 27th

David Mandala – (KG5WFS)

Murphy – Spring Fever Event
Parking lot by Lowe's
Many vendors and things for children

7:50 break
8:00 reconvened

Winlink Presentation – John Galvin – N5TIM

Winlink is an e-mail system that can be used via radio – WL2K
It is volunteer resources for Amateur Radio operators.
It can be used for emergency communication.
It is internet with radio technology
It is inter-operating messaging
E-mails can be sent anywhere, even when the internet is down.
Can be used like regular e-mail.

Winlink Express via Telnet is for the single user.
It allows data to be viewed in forms.

RMS is the next level up – packet
RMS relays through routes

To use Winlink you need to create an account
go to http://www.winlink.org
Download winlink and install in the base level

Your e-mail will be your call mailto:sign@winlink.org
Send your 1st e-mail via telnet to get your password in a downloaded message

Settings
Winlink Express setup
Put in your grid square and fill- in needed data and update

Send a message to your regular e-mail
Post to the outbox
If you get it, you got it.

Thanks to John Galvin – N5TIM for a very informative presentation.

He is available for a class to help individuals set up Winlink.
His e-mail is N5TIM@arrl.net

9:00

Motion to adjourn – **John Abbott – (WF5FWK)**
2nd the motion – **David Mandala – (KG5WFS)**
All agreed
Meeting adjourned

Do you need to join or renew your membership in the Sachse Amateur Radio Association?
Print the next page, fill it out, and bring the form to the next club meeting.

KF5NBO

SARA SKYWAVES

APRIL

Sachse Amateur Radio Association Membership Application

Sachse Amateur Radio Association Sachse, Texas 75048-3696 www.sachseradio.org kf5nbo@gmail.com

Type of Application: New Member ☐ **Renewal** ☐ **Date:**_____

Your Call Sign:_____ **Your License Class:**_____

Your Name:_____ **Spouses Name:**_____

Address:_____

City:_____ **State:**_____ **Zip:**_____

Home Phone:_____ **Work Phone:**_____

Cell Phone:_____ **Email:**_____

Membership Types: Please check only one option below:

☐ **Regular:** A regular member shall be any FCC licensed amateur radio operator who does not fall under the special provision of an associate or student membership. Regular member dues are $25.00 per year unless prorated (see below).

☐ **Family:** A family membership shall be any FCC licensed amateur radio operators and non-licensed family members interested in amateur radio who live in the immediate household. Family member dues are $30.00 per year unless prorated (see below).

☐ **Associate:** An associate member shall be any person maintaining membership to support the association but who does not hold a license as a radio amateur. Associate member dues are $10.00 per year and are not prorated.

☐ **Student:** A student member shall be any FCC licensed amateur radio operator who is currently enrolled as a full time student, is 18 years of age or younger, and is not otherwise eligible to be included in a family membership. Student member dues are $10.00 per year and are not prorated.

If selecting Family membership, please list the family members covered by this application.

Name:_____ **Email:**_____ **Call Sign (if any):**_____ **Lic Class:**_____

Name:_____ **Email:**_____ **Call Sign (if any):**_____ **Lic Class:**_____

Membership Dues: (Please check only one)

Dues are initially paid upon joining the association. Renewal dues are paid no later than the September meeting each year. A new application must be submitted each year as well. Dues are reduced (prorated) for Regular and Family members (only) who join or renew their membership after Dec 31st:

☐ Joining Sep 1 thru Dec 31, pay $25.00 for Regular dues, or $30.00 for Family dues.
☐ Joining Jan 1 thru Mar 31, pay $18.75 for Regular dues, or $22.50 for Family dues.
☐ Joining Apr 1 thru Jun 30, pay $12.50 for Regular dues, or $15.00 for Family dues.
☐ Joining Jul 1 thru Aug 31, pay $6.25 for Regular dues, or $7.50 for Family dues.

TOTAL DUE: $_____

Are you a current member of the ARRL? ☐ YES or ☐ NO (please chose one).

By submitting this application, either by hand or any electronic means, you hereby agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Sachse Amateur Radio Association.

Signature:_____

Please join us on the net (145.250 MHz, 141.3 PL) on Wednesdays at 8pm.